MEDIA RELEASE

Eating disorders plan an important step

The release of the NSW Service Plan for People with Eating Disorders 2013-2018 is an important step in the proper care and treatment of those with eating disorders in NSW.

The funded, five-year plan sees over $15.2 million being committed until 2018 to fund enhancements to community-based care and inpatient care. This is on top of the NSW Government’s existing investments in eating disorder services.

CEO of the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses, Adjunct Associate Professor Kim Ryan welcomes the service plan. “This is important work and I commend all those involved in its development”.

“Late last year we saw the devastating socio-economic impact on eating disorders, through a report launched by the Butterfly Foundation. It is fantastic to see that this report has informed further developments in the treatment and care of those with eating disorders”, said Ms Ryan.

The NSW Service Plan for People with Eating Disorders includes an increase in state-wide adult treatment beds from four to nine, enhancement of the existing adult Eating Disorder Day Programs on the Central Coast and at RPA, along with the establishment of a new Program in Newcastle, and a pilot child and adolescent Eating Disorder Day Program in Crows’ Nest.

Along with the service plan, the NSW Government have released Guidelines for the Inpatient Management of Adult Eating Disorders in General Medical and Psychiatric Settings, to support clinicians to confidently treat people with an eating disorder.

“Up-skilling health and mental health professionals in understanding and identifying eating disorders is essential in addressing the unacceptable mortality rate and socio-economic cost associated with eating disorders”, Ms Ryan said.

“I hope the service plan and guidelines are put to good use throughout NSW to support and appropriately treat those with eating disorders”, said Ms Ryan.

For copies of the service plan and more information visit the Centre for Eating and Dieting Disorders Website www.cedd.org.au, or contact the Centre for Eating & Dieting Disorders.02 8587 0200

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